

## **A Few Funding Ideas**

At times throughout the curriculum, teams may come across a need for something, whether it is snacks for your youth, supplies for an activity, materials for a service project, or gift cards for the celebration or for volunteers. There are many ways that teams can get the things that they need. Costco and Safeway will often donate the supplies that you request, or they may give a monetary donation. Also local business or other chains may be willing to support your projects.

Keep these in mind when approaching businesses:

- Companies have different policies for donations. Some may donate on short notice, but many require advance notice. Plan ahead! Call at least two weeks to a month before needing the donation.
- Let businesses know who you are and what you are doing. Some of the contacts that you make can become long-term partnerships.
- Handle every request for donations with respect. Some businesses may not be able to donate at that specific time but may in the future.
- Keep track of whom you talked to, what you asked for, what you received, and their donation policies. This will make asking for donations easier in the future.
- Write and send thank you notes!!! Even if they did not donate send them a “thank you for your time” note.

Below are some sites that you can access for grants. If you feel that you may need a larger amount of money to work with, you may want to apply for a grant. Applying for a grant takes more planning than calling for a donation. In order to receive money from these grants, applications will have to be done ahead of time, probably before you even know what your exact service project will be. This is OK. The process of going through the *Roadmap* with youth is a fundable project in itself. Instead of describing the specific service project you will do at the end, you can talk about your project as “getting youth involved in their community using service-learning. This is a seven week program culminating with a community service project chosen, developed, and carried-out in a partnership with \_\_\_\_ AmeriCorps program.” Then you can expound on some of the activities in the program, whichever ones seem best suited to the grant you are applying for.

Moreover, the experience of applying for one of these grants can be an excellent member development tool—something strong to put on a resume for future jobs.

**If you or your members find out about other funding opportunities, or apply for one of the following grants, please let us know so the WSC can support you in your efforts and continue improving this guide for the future.**

**1.) INLAND NORTHWEST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:** For public charities, public schools, and municipalities within the 10 easternmost counties of Washington (Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman Counties) and

the 10 northernmost counties of Idaho. Offer several different grants including the Communities Strategies Grant. Typically award \$1000-\$5000.

Website: <http://www.inwcf.org/>

Phone: (509) 624-2606 or 888-267-5606

Fax: (509) 624-2608

## **2.) BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION**

### **--Pacific Northwest Program-- Community Grants**

In Washington and Oregon, the foundation supports organizations that provide assistance to families including: shelter, abuse prevention, enrichment activities, education, job training, youth civic involvement, mental health services, and after-school programs, among others. No deadline, but should apply at least 3 months before funding is needed.

More info at: <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/PacificNorthwest/CommunityGrants/>

## **3.) U.S. BANCORP GRANTS:**

School workers can apply through their local U.S. Bancorp branch office (U.S. Bank and West One Bank) for funds to support community service and education projects. No deadline given, but should call well before money is needed.

**Contact:** Jennifer Forland

1420 5th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98101

(206) 344-2248

Website: [http://www.usbank.com/about/community\\_relations/charit\\_giving.html](http://www.usbank.com/about/community_relations/charit_giving.html)

## **4.) THE KING COUNTY COMMUNITY ORGANIZING PROGRAM (KCCOP):**

Community mobilization program that works in King County to promote healthy communities through implementing substance abuse and violence prevention strategies. In the spirit of supporting prevention efforts, the King County Community Organizing Program has mini-grants available. This funding supports alcohol, drug and violence prevention activities. These mini-grants will be distributed geographically throughout King County.

**\*\*Note:** On their FAQ page, they state that any activity that offers a “healthy alternative to drug use” will be considered, and they list “low neighborhood attachment and/or community disorganization” as a targeted risk factor. Getting youth involved in service would therefore be an excellent activity for this mini-grant program. Applications are accepted at any times. Call **206-296-5250** and check out: <http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/CSD/Organizing/MiniGrants.htm>

More information on other grants can be found on <http://www.serve.net.org>. Go to “Volunteer Services” on the sidebar, then click on “Win an Award.”